

Allentown EAC Minutes 8/9/2010

Call to Order: 5:19

Members Present: Dan Poresky(chairperson), Andrew Kleiner(secretary), David McGuire(vice-chair) Karen Tuerk, Julie Thomases , Peter Terry

Members Absent:

Guests in Attendance: Claudia Steckel, Tom Kerr, Karen El-Chaar (FOAP) , Greg Weitzel (Director of Parks and Rec)

Note- This is Karen Tuerk's last meeting as an EAC member.

Agenda Items

Discussion of last month's minutes – Corrections made to Claudia's remarks regarding 2009 Buffer planting – Approval of minutes: 5:22

5:25 – Karen El Charr (Friends Update)

Saturday September 25th – Volunteer Day – National Public Lands Day

- Jordan Park Clean Up (Trash and Invasive Species removal, painting, court fix up)
- Call for volunteers – from EAC
- students from local high schools and colleges, many community volunteers
- Invitation to Invasive species training tomorrow at 730AM

5:31- Dan suggests that any input regarding invasive species training goes through trainer after training

5:32 – Greg asked by city to attend EAC meetings, he will not stay for full meetings citing familial obligations

5:32- Greg addresses the EAC

- officially the liaison to the city administration for the EAC
- liaison to other department heads
- briefing management director and mayor on communications with EAC
- golf/bureau of recreation/parks and bureau of watershed under Greg's iron fist
- distributes park newsletter
- Summer adventure Allentown "flew off the shelves"
- offers a blank page to the EAC in Adventure Allentown
- Parks and Recreation priority projects: (tasked by mayor and city council)
 1. Complete Cedar Creek Parkway Phase One (70% complete to date)
 2. Lehigh River East Side Trail Development – building a trail from Lehigh Canal Park north along Bradford Street through Overlook park into Kimmets Lock
 3. Trail Network Implementation (ongoing) – working with Tom Kerr on bikable Allentown, writing grants
 4. Phase 2 MBRO (Market based revenue opportunities) – create new revenue without raising taxes-
 - Movies in the Park/Concerts in the Park/Special Events
 5. Lehigh Parkway restroom development project (breaking ground September/early October)
 6. Arts Walk Development (95% complete to date)

7. Keck Park Renovation (\$500,000 to spend) (30% complete to date) (out to bid this fall)
8. Percy B Ruhe Interpretative Signage Project (signs to be installed in the next couple weeks)
9. Fish Hatchery Renovations (ongoing)
 - EAC should review and evaluate language on new signage at Fish Hatchery
 - When signs are drafted Greg will be bringing them to a meeting
10. Entrance Way landscaping (30% complete) and Welcome signs
11. Aquatic Master Plan
 - received funding from state, matched with Trexler dollars
 - pools and spray parks in need of renovation
 - member of EAC should sit on steering committee once created
12. Dog Park Master Plan (90% complete)
 - will be unveiled at public meeting in September
 - at Trout Creek Parkway at the corner of Mack and Dixon
13. Sustainable Infrastructure Master Plan (out to purchase)
 - “right up our alley”
 - cutting energy costs
14. South Mountain Stewardship Plan
 - Create a South Mountain Committee (meet 4 times a year, begin in 2011)
 - plan is online
15. Irving Park and MLK WPA stone restoration
 - \$100,000 dollars of work
16. Golf Course Parking lot and resealing/restriping of parking lot
17. Citywide Park Signage and Way-finding system
 - EAC should play a role in this project

August park priorities

Mulch all remaining playgrounds (17 remaining sites)
 Cedar Creek- playground, fountain (OFG), life trail, site amenities, make foundation repairs, cut invasives from sparkle island, begin trail prep
 Bucky Boyle, 5th street. Vallania and Stevens – regular inspection and clean up
 Canal Park and Towpath cleanup (prep for marathon)
 Trout Creek Parkway – Knotweed Removal
 Jordan Park – daily and weekly locations
 Trexler Park, Irving Steps – improvements
 Union Terrace – replace aerator
 West Park planning day

Answers to Dave's queries:

- Invasive Species Management Plan from Wildlands Conservancy just finalized- copies on the way
- Sportsfest damage, Ray Atieyh owes 1.760 dollars – fine for parking in floodplain west of Ott – not allowed by parks department
- Ban parking on the lawns during special events (soil compaction/good practice)

6:12 Dan wishes to lend testimonial support at council meeting when lawn parking ban goes to vote. Julie asks for timeline in order to really support the parks department on this endeavor.

6:17 – Dave’s Issues

Removal of Land Bridge(Lake Muhlenberg) – request to DEP, no response yet, Greg is working actively with many organizations on water health, Greg knows what is growing, Greg knows what the problem, Greg is aware of many ways to address these issues, management plans being drafted at current by the best people in the region.

-specific request from mayor to look into the removal of the land bridge

6:27 Greg wants suggestions for the future of Muhlenberg Lake from EAC

6:40 Lights in The Parkway – Riley’s setting up this year

6:43 Greg departs

6:45 Trout Creek Tour report – Andrew Kleiner CBP Tour announcement

6:50- Lehigh Mountain- walking purchase park clean up

- doing a natural resource inventory for south mountain

-Cynthia Sopka (Salisbury Twnshp EAC) want to work with us

7:00 – Dave suggests the EAC+ interested folks to draft a statement regarding south mountain draft plan

7:03 – Dan is to call and inquire about the status of South Mountain draft document

-to what extent EAC input will be incorporated

7:13- Claudia will seek verification on “official plan”

7:14- Karen’s last meeting announcement

- Karen will see the sign project to the bitter end

7:16 In the next ten days we are to review bylaws for Peter Terry based on highlights

7:17- Tom Kerr update

-RFP done

-ISO ad for member on the green tab of Allentown’s website

- Tom Kerr will see it done

7:22- Dave wants to see trash cans of a uniform style implemented in the parks

7:25 McGuire adjourns

Karen seconds